

REMARKS

In response to the official action:

[2] The title is amended as required.

[3] A substitute specification was earlier submitted.

[4-6] The claims are amended to provide antecedent basis.

[7] It is unclear how the Examiner's remarks about means-plus-function language in the specification are related to the § 112 rejection, which is based on the claim language.

Clarification is requested.

[8] The Examiner questions (top of page 3) whether the claimed registration data includes the user data, or just the user identifier. Amended claim 1 now recites receiving, as registration data, a user identifier and one or more user data.

[9-16, 18, 20] By the present amendment, claim 1 is now directed to:

A server apparatus for managing communications among portable terminal devices connected with each other through a network, comprising:

first reception means connected to said network for receiving, as registration data, a user identifier and one or more user data corresponding to said user identifier;

storage means for storing said registration data received by said first reception means;

second reception means connected to said network for receiving a user identifier and a recipient address supplied from either one of said portable terminal devices;

retrieval means for retrieving one or more user datas which are associated with the supplied user identifier, from the stored registration data; and

transmission means connected to said network for transmitting the retrieved user datas toward one of said portable devices corresponding to the received recipient address.

With the above-recited arrangement, the claimed server apparatus can store, as registration data, typical and often-required user data such as a user's personal information including his or her name, age, and/or favorite selections, meanwhile keeping the respective correspondences between the user data and the user identifiers.

Instant Fig. 3 exemplifies this. When a user wishes to retrieve information, flow is transferred to S13 (Retrieval Processing), which is shown in more detail in Fig. 5. (For example, if the user wished to transfer money, his or her account number could be among the information to be retrieved.) Upon getting the retrieval command, the program first determines the user's name and required data (page 8, line 2; S23 in Fig. 5), and the data is then sent. Thus, data is provided without the user having to enter it into a keypad; only the identification data (S21 in Fig. 5) needs to be entered by the user. This overcomes the disadvantage of the prior art (page 1, first paragraph of Description of the Related Art).

Thus, the claimed server apparatus can provide user data, via a network, with a portable terminal or a user terminal device, when it receives a user identifier from the particular portable terminal device through the network. It relieves the operator of the particular portable terminal device from tedious operations, which otherwise are required to be sent to the user terminal or another portable terminal.

The applied reference Carey 6,714,793 discloses a method, system, and computer program for performing instant message communication in a network. The user is allowed to create an instant message list (buddy list) for the mobile unit device 36 (col. 4, lines 11-19), which is a look-up table of names and corresponding destination addresses, “preferably a phone number” (col. 4, lines 24-26). There is no disclosure of the instantly-claimed subject matter.

The applied reference relates to a method or system for creating a list of destination addresses which are allowed to receive a service for receiving transmission of an instant message. In contrast, the Applicant's server system prepares and stores various user information message data which corresponds to the respective user or subscriber and then transmits one or more of the stored user information message data to a desired destination based on a user identifier provided by a user or subscriber.

[17, 19] Claims 8 and 10 are canceled.

Reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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